

Water Protection Division Weekly Report

Branch Section: Oceans, Wetlands and Streams Protection_Wetlands and Streams Regulatory

Date: 9/27/2018

Prepared by: CDR Purify 2-9298

Hot Issues (*elevation/awareness*)

Elevation:

- Florida CWA section 404 assumption: Continuing to review and propose comments on pre-review draft of FDEP's rule 62-331. Coordinating internal meetings
- 404 commenting: Reviewing proposed 16-acre recreational impoundment in Brewton, Alabama. Drafting letter to communicate concerns to Corps. This would have significant aquatic resource impacts due to impounding flowing waters, whereas the area already provides multiple other such impoundments and recreational opportunities to meet the applicant's purpose.
- Acting Administrator Wheeler is sending a letter to all the governors and tribal leaders regarding EPA's efforts to facilitate assumption of the 404 permitting program. The letters mention the Army memo on Retained Waters sent in August of 2018, EPA's FACA on assumable waters, EPA's rulemaking effort that is underway, and notice that we intend to hold input meetings with the states and tribes this fall. These letters are currently being prepared for mailing.
 - AL's letter sent on September 20, 2018 to The Honorable Kay Ivey
- Additional staff have joined the FL Assumption Team to streamline document review

Awareness:

- Staff anticipating revised mitigation plan for large impact project, Camp Hall Rail, in South Carolina

Next Week's Goals

- Continuing current work efforts

Contact with Key External Stakeholders (*immediate past and anticipated contact*)

- This week: 404(g) update Early Guidance – principals meeting
- September 17 - OW to provide update on planning for which topics to address via update rulemaking